

Monty & Eltham

The Catholic Parishes of
St Francis Xavier & Our Lady Help of Christians



We acknowledge the Wurundjeri people who are the traditional custodians of this land and pay respect to the elders past, present and emerging of the Kulin Nation.

ROME / PORTUGAL / Hopes that decision will herald ‘a new time of peace’

Francis to consecrate Russia and Ukraine to Immaculate Heart of Mary

**Filipe Avillez and
Patrick Hudson**

Pope Francis was to consecrate Russia and Ukraine to the Immaculate Heart of the Virgin Mary during a penance service on 25 March in St Peter's Basilica. At the same time, Cardinal Konrad Krajewski, the Pope's almoner, was to be in Fátima, Portugal, to carry out the same act. The bishops of the world were invited to join in the consecration, as the Virgin Mary requested in the 1917 Fátima apparitions.

Archbishop Sviatoslav Shevchuk of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church expressed his support for the decision in a video message, offering prayers “to the Immaculate Virgin Mary, preparing for this consecration of Ukraine and Russia to her Immaculate Heart”.

The Consecration is a call for peace, said José Ornelas, bishop of the Portuguese diocese that oversees the shrine of Fátima.

Mary appeared in Fátima in 1917 to three shepherd children,

Francisco and Jacinta Marto - canonized by Pope Francis in 2017 - and their cousin, Lucia dos Santos. Francisco and Jacinta died not long after the apparitions, but Lucia became a disalced Carmelite and died in 2005, aged 97. Among the messages she shared was the need to pray for the conversion of Russia, to prevent the country from spreading “its errors” around the world.

Some have argued that previous attempts to make the consecration have been ineffective because they were not accomplished by bishops across the world and did not mention “Russia” specifically.

Bishop Ornelas said: “This is a message of peace. It is not against anybody, it is a message in favour of human reconciliation, to create an atmosphere of peace, rather than conflict”. Peace, he insisted, is at the centre of the Fátima message and the shrine's activity. “Other conflicts have also been the object of special attention in Fátima. Violence, war and peace are constantly present in the original message and in the way it has been developed.”

News of the consecration has also been welcomed by the large Ukrainian community in Portugal. Greek Catholic priest Ivan Hudz said Marian devotion is something that Portuguese and Ukrainians have in common.

“It is important for us to have the protection of Our Lady. Since the powerful nations of the world cannot close the skies and keep our schools, hospitals, maternity hospitals and theatres, where our children are hiding, from being bombed, we turn to Mary for protection,” he explained.

However, he said, it is not only Russia that needs to change. “Sister Lucia's memories of the apparitions make it clear that the whole world needs to change its ways. It is not only Russia that needs to convert, while we continue to live politically correct lives. Three months into 2022, how many abortions have been carried out in Europe? How many elderly people abandoned? How many immoral laws approved by EU governments? This consecration can't be only about the war.”

This parish has a commitment to ensuring the safety of children and vulnerable people in our community.

For more information visit pol.org.au/eltham or pol.org.au/montmorency.

We support the recommendations of the Royal Commission into institutional abuse and pray for all the survivors.



PARISH TEAM & INFORMATION

OUR PEOPLE & OUR CONTACT DETAILS



Parish Priest

Michael Sierakowski - Moderator

michael.sierakowski@cam.org.au

Parish Office

86 Mayona Road

9435 4742

Mon - Fri 9am-3pm

montmorency@cam.org.au

Kate Kogler:

Parish Secretary

eltham@cam.org.au

Peter Williams:

Child Safety Officer

SFX&OLHC.ChildSafety@cam.org.au

Website:

www.pol.org.au/montmorency

www.pol.org.au/eltham

(pol stands for Parish OnLine)

Facebook:

[St Francis Xavier Parish Montmorency](#)

Monty & Eltham Newsletter & Facebook items:

eltham@cam.org.au

Schools

St Francis Xavier Primary School

Principal: Philip Cachia: 9435 8474

principal@sfxmontmorency.catholic.edu.au

www.sfxmontmorency.catholic.edu.au

Holy Trinity Primary School

Principal: Vince Bumpstead: 9431 0888

principal@htelthamnth.catholic.edu.au

www.htelthamnth.catholic.edu.au

Our Lady Help of Christians Primary School

Principal: Patrick Green: 9439 7824

school@olhceltham.catholic.edu.au

www.olhceltham.catholic.edu.au

RECONCILIATION

available upon request

please call the Parish Office 9435 4742

Collections: 20 March 2022

Community	Thanksgiving	Presbytery
OLHC	\$897.00	\$590.40
SFX	\$1,696.00	\$885.15

Monty & Eltham Calendar of Events

Saturday 26

10:00am Baptism - Reuben

Montmorency

6:00pm Mass

Montmorency

Sunday 27 - Fourth Sunday of Lent

8:30am Mass

Montmorency

10:00am Mass

Eltham

12:00pm Baptism - Evie, Harvey & Thomas

Eltham

Tuesday 29

9:30am Mass

Montmorency

Wednesday 30

6:30am Meditation

Montmorency

9:30am Liturgy of the Word with Communion

Eltham

7:00pm Lenten Rosary

Eltham

Thursday 31

9:30am Liturgy of the Word with Communion Montmorency

10:00am Funeral - Margo Velkamp

Eltham

10:30am ASRC Food Collection

Montmorency

Friday 1 April

9:30am Mass

Eltham

Saturday 2

12:00pm Baptism - Leon, Fletcher, Aiden

Eltham

6:00pm Mass

Montmorency

Sunday 3 - Fifth Sunday of Lent

8:30am Mass

Montmorency

10:00am Mass

Eltham

12:00pm Baptism - Addison, Christian, Isla

Montmorency

Monday 4

6:30pm Sisters & Mistresses Choir

Eltham

Tuesday 5

9:30am Mass

Montmorency

10:00am Craft Group

Montmorency

11:00am Prayer Shawl Ministry

Eltham

Wednesday 6

6:30am Meditation

Montmorency

9:30am Liturgy of the Word with Communion

Eltham

1:00pm Small Church Community

Montmorency

7:00pm Lenten Rosary

Eltham

7:30pm Small Church Community

Montmorency

Thursday 7

9:30am Liturgy of the Word with Communion Montmorency

10:30am ASRC Food Collection

Montmorency

2:00pm Mass

St Vincent's Care, Eltham

Friday 8

9:30am Mass

Eltham

3:00pm Wedding

Eltham

6:30pm Anniversary Mass - Brooke Coskun

Montmorency

Saturday 9

12:00pm Baptism - Leila, Elodie

Montmorency

6:00pm Mass

Montmorency

Sunday 10 - Palm Sunday

8:30am Mass

Montmorency

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**Support
Eltham Parish
by giving with CDFpay**

Simply scan the QR code with your mobile phone and in a few easy steps you can quickly and securely give to your parish.





*Let us pray for all those who have gone
before us marked with the sign of faith ...*

Montmorency

For those whose anniversaries are at this time:
John Hedigan, Maria Muscat, Stella Skehill

For those in need of healing, remembering especially:
*Mona, Rita Bevanda, Kim Brisbane, Alana Foulds,
Debbie Edgley (nee Vanderwert), Kate Lagerevskij,
Melanie Lam, Andrew Pighin, Aguatha Spina*

Eltham

For those in need of healing, remembering especially:
*Violetta, Margaret McKay
Fiona Rogers, Rosemary Scully, Ian Sturman*
To include an anniversary please contact Parish House
9435 4742 or eltham@cam.org.au.



**Congratulations to all who celebrate
their sacraments this weekend:**

Saturday 26 March

St Francis Xavier, 10:00am
Reuben Silva

Baptism

Sunday 27 March

Our Lady Help of Christians, 12:00pm
Evie Morrell
Harvey Morrell
Thomas Villani

Baptism

Baptism

Baptism



Lent-in-brief...

*Jesus is never upset at sinners! He is only upset with people who
do not think they are sinners.*

Richard Rohr, Wondrous Encounters

Thank you and Farewell to Fr Terry

Covid restrictions have limited our opportunities to
farewell and thank Fr Terry for the 15 years that he spent
with us in the parish and for him to thank the parish.
Two opportunities to rectify this situation are being
arranged on the following dates:

Saturday 21 May at 7pm in the SFX Parish Hall; and
Sunday 22 May at 12noon at the Monty-Eltham RSL.

[More details to follow.](#)

Roster for WEEKEND 02/03 April 2022

Boyd, Mary	PRYR
Haines, Jan-Marie	Eucharistic Minister
Hall, Vali	Altar Society
Milwain, Gianna	Altar Society
Ryan Family	Pilgrim Rosary Statue
Scully, Greg	Eucharistic Minister
Taylor, Colin	Hospitality OLHC
Taylor, Trish	Commentator
Zylstra, Diane	Reader

Prayers of the Faithful for 27 March 2022 - Fourth Sunday of Lent

Leader: As we come together, each of us brings worries, anxieties and fears. We gather them all together and entrust them to the one who heals his suffering people. With confidence, then, we turn to God in prayer.

For the Church: that we may be ambassadors of Christ, bringing God's message of compassion, mercy, and salvation to all who are wounded or alienated. *Let us pray to the Lord.* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For our parish community: that the Spirit will guide us in acknowledging our weaknesses to God, help us to turn more fully toward our heavenly Father and to follow the path of the Gospel every day. *Let us pray to the Lord.* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For our children who are preparing to celebrate the sacrament of reconciliation: that they may surrender all their brokenness to God and encounter God's abundant love. Give us the courage to pray with our children and to share our faith with them as we journey together. *Let us pray to the Lord.* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For young people who have run away from their families: That God will heal families from the wounds of words and actions that may have occurred in the past. So that they may work together and support one another, giving them the courage to make contact and reunite. *Let us pray to the Lord.* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For peace in our world: We pray for the people of Ukraine, as we lament the violence that has come to their country. We ask for comfort for those who mourn, hope for those who despair and compassion for all who suffer. We plead for an end to violence and aggression in our world. *Let us pray to the Lord.* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For all who are sick and those who are listed in our bulletin. May they experience the healing touch of Christ. *Let us pray to the Lord.* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

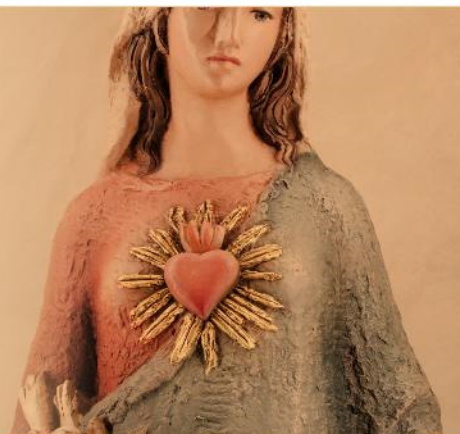
We pray for those who have died recently. We also remember *John Hedigan, Maria Muscat & Stella Skehill* whose anniversaries occur at this time. May they rest in the peace and love of Christ. *Let us pray to the Lord.* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader: God of life, hear the prayers we have spoken and those held deep within our hearts. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: **Amen**

Act of Consecration of Ukraine and Russia to the Immaculate Heart of Mary

SOLEMNITY OF THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD
(25 MARCH 2022)



O Mary, Mother of God and our Mother, in this time of trial we turn to you.

As our Mother, you love us and know us: no concern of our hearts is hidden from you. Mother of mercy, how often we have experienced your watchful care and your peaceful presence! You never cease to guide us to Jesus, the Prince of Peace.

Yet we have strayed from that path of peace. We have forgotten the lesson learned from the tragedies of the last century, the sacrifice of the millions who fell in two world wars. We have disregarded the commitments we made as a community of nations. We have betrayed peoples' dreams of peace and the hopes of the young. We grew sick with greed, we thought only of our own nations and their interests, we grew indifferent and caught up in our selfish needs and concerns. We chose to ignore God, to be satisfied with our illusions, to grow arrogant and aggressive, to suppress innocent lives and to stockpile weapons. We stopped being our neighbour's keepers and stewards of our common home. We have ravaged the garden of the earth with war and by our sins we have broken the heart of our heavenly Father, who desires us to be brothers and sisters. We grew indifferent to everyone and everything except ourselves. Now with shame we cry out: Forgive us, Lord!

Holy Mother, amid the misery of our sinfulness, amid our struggles and weaknesses, amid the mystery of iniquity that is evil and war, you remind us that God never abandons us, but continues to look upon us with love, ever ready to forgive us and raise us up to new life. He has given you to us and made your Immaculate Heart a refuge for the Church and for all humanity. By God's gracious will, you are ever with us; even in the most troubled moments of our history, you are there to guide us with tender love.

We now turn to you and knock at the door of your heart. We are your beloved children. In every age you make yourself known to us, calling us to conversion. At this dark hour, help us and grant us your comfort. Say to us once more: "Am I not here, I who am your Mother?" You are able to untie the knots of our hearts and of our times. In you we place our trust. We are confident that, especially in moments of trial, you will not be deaf to our supplication and will come to our aid.

That is what you did at Cana in Galilee, when you interceded with Jesus and he worked the first of his signs. To preserve the joy of the wedding feast, you said to him: "They have no wine" (Jn 2:3). Now, O Mother, repeat those words and that prayer, for in our own day we have run out of the wine of hope, joy has fled, fraternity has faded. We have forgotten our humanity and squandered the gift of peace. We opened our hearts to violence and destructiveness. How greatly we need your maternal help!

(continued...)

Therefore, O Mother, hear our prayer.

Star of the Sea, do not let us be shipwrecked in the tempest of war.

Ark of the New Covenant, inspire projects and paths of reconciliation.

Queen of Heaven, restore God's peace to the world.

Eliminate hatred and the thirst for revenge, and teach us forgiveness.

Free us from war, protect our world from the menace of nuclear weapons.

Queen of the Rosary, make us realise our need to pray and to love.

Queen of the Human Family, show people the path of fraternity.

Queen of Peace, obtain peace for our world.

O Mother, may your sorrowful plea stir our hardened hearts. May the tears you shed for us make this valley parched by our hatred blossom anew. Amid the thunder of weapons, may your prayer turn our thoughts to peace. May your maternal touch soothe those who suffer and flee from the rain of bombs. May your motherly embrace comfort those forced to leave their homes and their native land. May your Sorrowful Heart move us to compassion and inspire us to open our doors and to care for our brothers and sisters who are injured and cast aside.

Holy Mother of God, as you stood beneath the cross, Jesus, seeing the disciple at your side, said: "Behold your son" (Jn 19:26). In this way he entrusted each of us to you. To the disciple, and to each of us, he said: "Behold, your Mother" (v. 27). Mother Mary, we now desire to welcome you into our lives and our history. At this hour, a weary and distraught humanity stands with you beneath the cross, needing to entrust itself to you and, through you, to consecrate itself to Christ. The people of Ukraine and Russia, who venerate you with great love, now turn to you, even as your heart beats with compassion for them and for all those peoples decimated by war, hunger, injustice and poverty.

Therefore, Mother of God and our Mother, to your Immaculate Heart we solemnly entrust and consecrate ourselves, the Church and all humanity, especially Russia and Ukraine. Accept this act that we carry out with confidence and love. Grant that war may end and peace spread throughout the world. The "Fiat" that arose from your heart opened the doors of history to the Prince of Peace. We trust that, through your heart, peace will dawn once more. To you we consecrate the future of the whole human family, the needs and expectations of every people, the anxieties and hopes of the world.

Through your intercession, may God's mercy be poured out on the earth and the gentle rhythm of peace return to mark our days. Our Lady of the "Fiat", on whom the Holy Spirit descended, restore among us the harmony that comes from God. May you, our "living fountain of hope", water the dryness of our hearts. In your womb Jesus took flesh; help us to foster the growth of communion. You once trod the streets of our world; lead us now on the paths of peace.

Amen.

Lenten Reflection:

Faith is born of an encounter with the living God who calls us and reveals his love, a love which precedes us and upon which we can lean for security and for building our lives. Transformed by this love, we gain fresh vision, new eyes to see; we realize that it contains a great promise of fulfilment, and that a vision of the future opens up before us.

Pope Francis, Lumen Fidei 4

MASSG

Montmorency Asylum Seekers Support Group

is passionately committed to supporting and advocating
for people seeking asylum.

Their Autumn online raffle is available
until 11 April.

Follow the link :

<https://massg.oneraffle.com/massg/>
to see how easy it is to join in!

Marie Wood

Helping Mona find her voice

15-year-old Mona arrived in Australia just before Christmas. Mona has a severe cleft palate and needs surgery that isn't possible in the Philippines.

After a stay in hotel quarantine, she was able to join us at the Retreat in time for our Christmas celebrations. However, due to the disruptions in surgery caused by COVID, she has had a longer than expected wait.

Mona shared with us *"over the years I have been bullied because I can't talk properly. That made me not talk much. This surgery will mean a lot to me."*

Her wonderful surgeon Associate Professor James Leong understood how much the surgery means to Mona and how tough it's been for her to be away from home for so long. He has pulled out all the stops, liaising directly with Mulgrave Private Hospital on CFF's behalf and pulling together a volunteer surgical team for the day. Mona's surgery will take place on Saturday 26th March. Her hopes are so simple that she will be able to *"talk properly and well and get the words more understandable. I will be so happy to talk to mum, my family, and friends."*

This will be the first time that Children First Foundation has partnered with Mulgrave Private Hospital and we are incredibly grateful for this new relationship. We seldom struggle to find surgeons and health professionals who want to support our children but linking in with hospitals willing to support the surgeries has been getting gradually harder over the years. We truly appreciate everyone who comes together to enable the children to access the surgery they need but a new hospital partnership is incredibly exciting for us.

We can't wait for Mona to have her surgery and finally find her voice, thanks to your support. We know she'll have a lot to say but we're pretty sure one of the first things will be THANK YOU!

Glenys



- Pastoral Youth Worker, Parish of St Macartan's Mornington
- Continuous Improvement Specialist - Client Services Group, CDF, East Melbourne
- Parish Secretary, St Luke's Parish, Lalor
- Property Administrator, East Melbourne
- Parish Administration Co-ordinator, St Albans
- Parish Secretary - Supporting the communities of St Kilda East & Balaclava, St Kilda
- Stewardship Co-ordinator, Bayside
- Senior Content Producer, East Melbourne
- Creatives Officer, East Melbourne
- Digital Communications Officer, East Melbourne
- Mission & Pastoral Life Co-ordinator, Catholic Diocese of Sandhurst, Bendigo

Further details of the above positions can be found on the Archdiocese website at:

<https://melbournecatholic.org/job-vacancies>

Holy Week Liturgies

St Francis Xavier

Volunteers are required for the Holy Week Liturgies at St Francis Xavier's.

There are sign-up sheets in the foyer for the various roles for Holy Thursday at 7pm and the Easter Vigil at 7pm.

Our Lady Help of Christians

There are still some roles to be filled for the 3pm Good Friday liturgy and the 6am Easter Morning Mass.

We also need people to indicate if they will be attending the breakfast after the Easter Morning Mass.

The sign-up sheets are in the Gathering Area on the table.

Kathleen Nolan



St. Francis Xavier
Catholic Primary School
Montmorency

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2023
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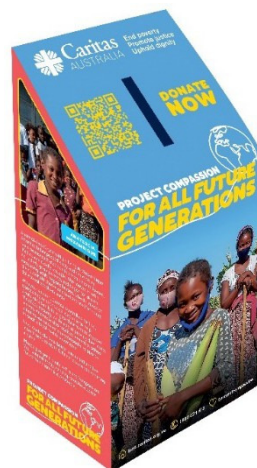
Rosalie 44, is an ex-combatant who lives with her husband and seven children in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Forced to join the army when she was just 15-years-old, Rosalie experienced significant trauma and hardship during her years in the military. After she was demobilized from the army, Rosalie, like other ex-combatants, was left to fend for herself in the community.

With your generous support and through our local partners, Rosalie was able to connect with other members of her community and participate in business skills training to help her to reintegrate into society.

Please donate to Project Compassion 2022 and help women like Rosalie to succeed in the future, providing hope *For All Future Generations*.



Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow ***For All Future Generations***. You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes and envelopes available from your Parish, by visiting lent.caritas.org.au, or by calling 1800 024 413.



Gospel - Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

The tax collectors and the sinners were all seeking the company of Jesus to hear what he had to say, and the Pharisees and the scribes complained. 'This man' they said 'welcomes sinners and eats with them.' So he spoke this parable to them:

'A man had two sons. The younger said to his father, "Father, let me have the share of the estate that would come to me." So the father divided the property between them. A few days later, the younger son got together everything he had and left for a distant country where he squandered his money on a life of debauchery.

'When he had spent it all, that country experienced a severe famine, and now he began to feel the pinch, so he hired himself out to one of the local inhabitants who put him on his farm to feed the pigs. And he would willingly have filled his belly with the husks the pigs were eating but no one offered him anything. Then he came to his senses and said, "How many of my father's paid servants have more food than they want, and here am I dying of hunger! I will leave this place and go to my father and say: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you; I no longer deserve to be called your son; treat me as one of your paid servants." So he left the place and went back to his father.

'While he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was moved with pity. He ran to the boy, clasped him in

his arms and kissed him tenderly. Then his son said, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I no longer deserve to be called your son." But the father said to his servants, "Quick! Bring out the best robe and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the calf we have been fattening, and kill it; we are going to have a feast, a celebration, because this son of mine was dead and has come back to life; he was lost and is found." And they began to celebrate.

'Now the elder son was out in the fields, and on his way back, as he drew near the house, he could hear music and dancing. Calling one of the servants he asked what it was all about. "Your brother has come" replied the servant "and your father has killed the calf we had fattened because he has got him back safe and sound." He was angry then and refused to go in, and his father came out to plead with him; but he answered his father, "Look, all these years I have slaved for you and never once disobeyed your orders, yet you never offered me so much as a kid for me to celebrate with my friends. But for this son of yours, when he comes back after swallowing up your property - he and his women - you kill the calf we had been fattening."

"The father said, "My son, you are with me always and all I have is yours. But it is only right we should celebrate and rejoice, because your brother here was dead and has come to life; he was lost and is found."



We proclaim a crucified Christ

1Cor1.23

22 March 2022

Dear Bishops, Fathers and Deacons,

As you will be aware by now, Pope Francis has taken the decision to consecrate Ukraine and Russia to the Immaculate Heart of Mary on the Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord. How deeply needed is this consecration!

"Consecration" as you would be aware, means to set aside for a holy purpose - an appeal to God. In fact, we lay ourselves, our hearts, our prayers, and our desires at the feet of our Lord. Consecration to Mary is an overt recognition of the "singular role of Mary in the Mystery of Christ and of the Church. The Immaculate Heart of Mary in particular symbolises her perfect will as expressed in her 'fiat' – her saying 'yes' to the Father's will, and the universal and exemplary importance of her witness to the Gospel.

Pope Francis has invited the Bishops of the world to do join him in making this act of Consecration. I will indeed be doing so at the 7am Mass at St Patrick's Cathedral on Friday.

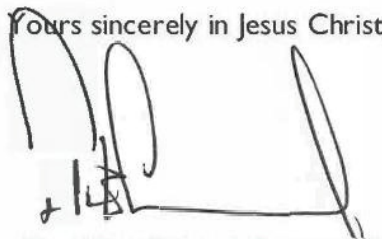
I would like to extend this to every parish and community within the Archdiocese, and I invite you to do so at all Sunday Masses for this weekend.

Having contacted the Nunciature here in Australia, we are awaiting possible wording for the Consecration before the end of the week. If nothing is forthcoming in time, I will offer a form of words of Consecration, drawing on earlier consecrations made to the Blessed Virgin Mary by previous pontiffs.

The peoples of both Ukraine and Russia desperately need our spiritual work of mercy, and our union with them in prayer. May conversion of hearts and minds be foremost in our prayer, along with prayer for the safety and protection of the people in those cities of Ukraine being targeted.

With every grace and blessing, I remain,

Yours sincerely in Jesus Christ,



Most Rev Peter A Comensoli
Archbishop of Melbourne